

Application No. 10/693,163

July 12, 2006

Preliminary Amendment Accompanying Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114

Remarks

Pending Claims 21, 28, and 36 stand objected to by the examiner for certain informalities. Pending Claims 22, 25-27, 32-35 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112. Pending Claims 21, 23-28, 30-34, and 36 stand rejected by the examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Li et al. (US Pub. No. 2004/0225686 A1). Pending Claims 22 and 29 stand rejected by the examiner as obvious over Li et al. in view of Li et al. (US Pub. No. 2004/0177069 A1). Examiner noted that claim 35 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the Office action, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-36 and submitted new claim 37. Cancelled Claim 35, which examiner said contains patentable material, depended on cancelled claim 28. New claim 37 includes every limitation that was present in cancelled claims 28 and 35. Please note that some element reordering and harmonization was required to produce a comprehensible claim 37.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants submit that Claims 21-35 are patentably distinct over the references and are in allowable form. Accordingly, the Applicants earnestly solicit the favorable consideration of their application, and respectfully request that it be passed to issue in its present condition.

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Should the Examiner discern any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of the aforementioned claims that might be resolved or overcome with the aid a telephone conference, he is cordially invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,



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